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Updates for September 12th

27 Aug - The Making of a Movement by Jalil Muntaqim

Read the following from New York state political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim.

MORE:

I was captured on August 28, 1971, in San Francisco after a car chase and gun battle with San Francisco police. It was alleged that myself and co-defendant Albert Nuh Washington were attempting to avenge the assassination of George L. Jackson, in San Quentin on August 21, 1971. I was convicted for the S.F. shootout, a federal bank robbery, and in 1975 convicted of killing two police officers in New York that occurred on May 21, 1971. This conviction was code named NEWKILL by the FBI in a May 26, 1971, meeting at the White House between J. Edgar Hoover, then-President Richard Nixon, and members of the Watergate plumbers. Having been a member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, it was decided in the White House to ensure BPP members are convicted for NEWKILL. Although I was captured for alleged revolutionary-military actions, charged and persecuted in criminal proceedings, the U.S. Corporate Government criminalizes political rebellion.

After my conviction in NYC, I was returned to California to complete the S.F. conviction and sentence. I was placed in San Quentin Adjustment Center, locked on the first floor in a cell between Ruchell Cinque Magee and Charles Manson. The San Quentin Six were locked a few cells away on the same tier. In 1975, I received a newsletter from Yuri Kochiyama, representing the New York City chapter of the National Committee in Defense of Political Prisoners. The newsletter highlighted a call for the United Nations to consider the existence of the U.S. political prisoners. After reading the newsletter, I drafted a proposal for progressives and activists to assist political prisoners to petition the United Nations on our behalf to call for a formal investigation into our existence and the conditions we suffered in prisons across the country. I showed the draft to Ruchell, who thought it was very good, but suggested I let Geronimo ji gaga Pratt review it. I had the proposal smuggled to the second floor of the Adjustment Center where Geronimo was being held, along with Russell Little and Bill Harris, members of the S.L.A., for his critique. Geronimo tweaked the proposal and sent it back for me to rewrite and send to Yuri and NCDPP to implement.

Unfortunately, after several weeks there was no response from Yuri or NCDPP, so the proposal was abandoned until early 1977. At that time, I met a white guy in San Quentin nicknamed Commie Mike, and I shared the proposal with him. He put me in contact with the United Prisons Union, a prison reform advocacy group in San Francisco. After a meeting with Pat Singer, a leader of UPU, it was agreed UPU would take on the proposal and develop what evolved into the National Prisoners Petition Campaign to the United Nations. Soon thereafter, the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee joined in support of UPU in building the petition campaign to the U.N. We were able to obtain former Amnesty International attorney Kathryn Burke to assist with the development of the petition to be presented to the United Nations.

By 1978, the campaign had prisoners in 25 States, including Hawaii, supporting the petition. The petition was submitted to the U.N. Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and recorded as U.N. document E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/75. This was the first time a document concerning the existence of U.S. political prisoners and racist prison conditions had been filed, recorded and heard at the U.N. In 1979, evolving from this initiative, an effort was made to have the International Jurists tour the U.S. and interview political prisoners. After a number of interviews, the International Jurists filed a report to the United Nations affirming political prisoners exist in the United States. Also in 1979, our campaign knew a journalist in Paris would be attending a news conference by U.S. United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young. I was asked were there any specific questions I wanted asked by the journalist, and I said only one, "Do political prisoners exist in the U.S.?" Ambassador Young answered truthfully, stating "...

perhaps thousands," and for his admission, then-President Jimmy Carter fired Andrew Young from his post. It should be noted, also as part of the overall campaign, Cuba's President Fidel Castro offered to trade U.S. political prisoners with prisoners in Cuba the U.S. wanted. Unfortunately, because we did not have contacts with the State Department or knew anyone who was willing and capable of intervening in our behalf, that trade did not happen.

Many years later, the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika organized annual marches around the White House, demonstrating and calling for the release of U.S. political prisoners. In 1995, the PG-RNA, for lack of funding and participation, stopped the Jericho marches, which I thought should continue. So, in 1996, I distributed a call for action to reestablish the Jericho marches. Comrades Safiya Asya Bukhari and Herman Ferguson came to visit, decrying they were unable to organize a national Jericho march in a year's time. In our meeting in the visiting room at Eastern Correctional Facility in NYS, we agreed that a concerted effort would be made to organize the Jericho March for 1998.

Sista Safiya and Baba Herman's organizing ability was incomparable, initiating the campaign by establishing an organizing committee, a P.O. Box address for communications, and a non-profit tax status to raise funds. They then issued a call for progressives in the left, especially those supporting political prisoners across the country, to join in the organizing initiative. Both Safiya and Herman criss-crossed the country, meeting with activists, explaining the importance of the march and demonstration, letting activists know we have a collective responsibility to support our captured and confined warriors and demand their release/amenity. Within 2 years, their indomitable spirit and revolutionary determination successfully brought 6,000 activists from across the country to Washington, D.C. for the Jericho March and rally.

After the march and rally, it was decided the momentum from the effort should continue, and the Jericho Amnesty Movement was born. The Jericho Amnesty Movement is charged with the responsibility of supporting and representing the interest of U.S. political prisoners; calling for their release, especially those known to have COINTELPRO convictions. There have been continued initiatives to raise the profile of U.S. political prisoners at the United Nations. In 2016, Jihad Abdulmumit, the current Chairperson of Jericho, made a presentation in Geneva, Switzerland on behalf of U.S. political prisoners. Jihad was a member of the Black Panther Party and BLA and a former political prisoner; he understands this struggle to forge a determination to free U.S. political prisoners.

In 2018, the Jericho Amnesty Movement will reach a milestone of 20 years of actively fighting on behalf of U.S. political prisoners. In these nearly twenty years, Jericho has established a medical committee to assist political prisoners in their health needs; a legal defense committee to assist political prisoners in their legal defenses and challenges; assist families of political prisoners to visit, and continue to fight for their release.

When we consider many of those who were COINTELPRO targets are still in prison, we can agree that Jericho is an important formation bridging the generations from the struggle of the 60's and 70's to the millennials. Obviously, for any movement to be sustained, grow and evolve, activists must support their political prisoners. The Black Panther Party was instrumental in developing community organizing and political objectives to be achieved. The Party made people understand the process of fighting the status quo to empower the community. For example, in 1967 the Party started armed patrols of the police, carrying weapons and law books, demanding cops follow the constitution and laws on stop and frisk procedures. This type of public display of challenging police procedures encouraged folks on the streets to recognize the police weren't all powerful or omnipotent. This was the primary reason the FBI COINTELPRO launched over 300 attacks against the BPP. In fact, the FBI employed every tactic used to destabilize a country in order to destroy the Black Panther Party. This includes illegal surveillance, infiltration, provocateurs, burglarizing offices and homes, stops and frisks, illegal arrests, poison pen letters, misinformation in the media, snitch jacketing, and assassinations. Indeed, on March 9, 1968, J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the F.B.I., issued a COINTELPRO memorandum that stated in part:

"The Negro youth and moderate must be made to understand that if they succumb to revolutionary teaching, they will be dead revolutionaries."

It must be understood that the FBI COINTELPRO did not begin with the U.S. Corporate Government's efforts to destroy the Black Panther Party, and "...to prevent the rise of a Black Messiah". However, the FBI COINTELPRO illegal, unconstitutional activities from 1967 to 1970 resulted in the death of approximately 33 Panthers.

Despite the attacks on the BPP, the youth flocked to the Party, especially after 1967 when Bobby Seale and twenty-six armed Panthers entered the California legislature protesting hearings on gun control. This action captured the imagination of young Black youths across the country that the fight for revolution was here. The subsequent passing of the Milford Act made it illegal for Panthers to publicly carry weapons while patrolling the police. Also in 1968, membership increased when the Party established its "Serve the People" programs, initiating the free breakfast program for children. In 1969, the first BPP Free Breakfast for Children Program was started at St. Augustine's Church in Oakland; and the Party was distributing and selling 100,000 copies of its newspaper, "The Black Panther" weekly. By 1968, the BPP had established thirty-eight branches and chapters with five thousand members. It was the indomitable spirit of these thousands of young people dedicating themselves to the Party and continuing the struggle for freedom and equality that began from the time when New Afrikans were brought to this country as slaves. Hence, when Willie Ricks and Stokely Carmichael proclaimed our struggle was for "Black Power," it ignited a political cataclysmic storm of youthful energy for freedom. However, the Black Panther Party Ten Point Platform and Program manifested that declaration in the pragmatic development of programs on behalf of our people. It is this legacy of resistance and fight-back that Jericho incorporates, as lessons learned from the BPP.

I was one of those thousands of young people who, at 16 years of age, first signed up to become a Panther; at 18 years old I was recruited into the Black underground. A little more than a month before my 20th birthday I was captured, and am now one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. With 46 years in prison, I continue to seek ways to contribute to the overall struggle. The writing of my books, "We Are Our Own Liberators" and "Escaping the Prism—Fade to Black" is part of giving back to this generation of activists. It is necessary to ensure the continuum from one generation to the next, and it is incumbent on each generation to support political prisoners who paved the way, passing the torch of revolution.

In this regard, recently the Jericho Amnesty Movement embarked on a new national and international campaign to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to initiate a formal investigation on human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners. To further demand the U.S. Corporate Government implement the U.N. Minimum Standards on the Treatment of Prisoners, and for the immediate release of our political prisoners. This especially calls for the release of those with COINTELPRO convictions who have languished in prison for 30 to 50 years. These political prisoners were contemporaries of Nelson Mandela; when he was fighting against Apartheid in South Afrika, they were fighting against Jim Crow segregation and second-class citizenship in the U.S. This Jericho campaign motto is "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" and activists across the country are urged to join and support in whatever way they are able in political solidarity toward the building of the National Coalition for the Human Rights of Political Prisoners. For more information on this campaign or on the existence of U. S. political prisoners, contact: www.thejerichomovement.com or email jihadabdulmumit@gmail.com

About the writer: Jalil Abdul Muntaqim (ANTHONY BOTTOM) is one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. He is the author of "We Are Our Own Liberators," a compilation of prison writings. Many of his essays have been published in scholastic anthologies such as "Schooling a Generation," ed. Chiasole (2002); "The New Abolitionist: (Neo) Slave Narratives and Contemporary Prisoners Writings," ed. Joy James (2005); "This Country Must Change," ed. Craig Rosenbraugh (2009); Jalil's articles have appeared in NYC Amsterdam News, the San Francisco BayView newspapers, and many progressive publications. His most recent book, "Escaping the Prison—Fade to Black," a compilation of poems and essays with an extensive Afterword by Prof. Ward Churchill, published by Kersplebedeb Pub. & Dist., in Canada, can be purchased on Amazon.com and from AK Press. Jalil is the co-founder of the Jericho

Amnesty Movement. For more information on Jalil's NEWKILL conviction and fight for parole, check: freejalil.com.

September 8th – Clemency for Jalil

Meanwhile, Jalil Muntaqim, a long-term New York black liberation prisoner, continues to request that people support him with twitter storms pressuring New York Governor Cuomo to grant him clemency, with the next one being scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th. To participate, tweet the following message to Governor Cuomo on the 13th:

@NYGovCuomo I add my voice to demand: Commutation of sentence for Anthony Jalil Bottom #77A4283 NOW! #clemency4jalil

Call the Governor at: 518.474.8390

Write:

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor of New York State

NYS State Capitol Building

Albany, New York 12224

governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form

Twitter @NYGovCuomo

#clemency4jalil

To find out more about Jalil's case, you can listen to a recent interview on The Final Straw at thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/post/2017/09/03/jalil-muntaqim-pt1-new-anarchist-punk-and-metal

28 Aug - Washington Post Justifies Government Prosecution Of Inauguration Protesters As 'Conspirators'

In the haze of the growing national conversation on free speech, organizing tactics, and state repression, one event has been nearly lost in wider the discussion: what happened to protesters who came out onto the streets of Washington, D.C., on January 20, also known as J20.

MORE:

by Roqayah Chamseddine (*Shadowproof*)

Aggressive police tactics, mass arrests, and blanket felony charges against protesters have become an aside in light of recent events, despite the tremendous weight of criminal prosecution still in progress. While police violence is certainly nothing new, the way in which the press has handled the targeting of J20 activists is an indictment of how the media often acts as stenographers, simply regurgitating the state's language. It is also an indication of how resistance will be handled by Donald Trump's administration, and how that will impact organizing in the years to come.

One of the J20 defendants, whose identity is being withheld so they could speak freely about their pending case, tells Shadowproof the accused are being tried in groups. "I have no idea how that's supposed to work or how I can be responsible for what seven other strangers who will be tried alongside me did, and we may file a motion to sever. The livestreamer going to trial in November, Alexei Wood, is attempting to have his trial severed from the group, but the government is opposing his motion."

"My feeling is they know the cases are bullshit and that would be evident if they had to try people individually," the defendant said. "That's why they have the conspiracy charge. The prosecutor stated in the recent arguments for the collective motion to dismiss that 'it is the group that is the danger, the group that is criminal.'"

"I'm worried the cases have gone as far as they have because it means the judges are finding legitimacy in the theory of conspiracy presented by the prosecutors. I'm terrified but having my fingers crossed that public outrage can do something."

Inauguration Day was a maelstrom of disbelief and rage, and the streets erupted in defiance. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) indiscriminately targeted protesters with tear gas, water cannons, and a type of explosive device known as “stingers.” As one report from the Independent put it, reporters were arrested in order to “send a chilling message to journalists covering future protests.”

The MPD kettled, detained, and levied felony charges against over 200 people. One hundred ninety-six defendants now face over 80 years in prison. In July, Carlos Piantini, a community organizer and political defendant in the state’s case against Disrupt J20, the group that organized the Inauguration protests, wrote that the events of the day were wrought with violence, specifically by police.

“I remember the footage of an elderly woman brutalized by a river of pepper spray and saved from a phalanx of riot police by a black-clad protester,” Piantini writes. “I recall a fellow arrestee in my cell unit with an eye bulging out of its socket like a tomato—the offspring of pepper spray and contact lenses—and how we had to demand they receive medical attention.”

Months after these events, the Department of Justice called for the seizure of the 1.3 million IP addresses that accessed the Disrupt J20 website. The Atlantic reported that the administration’s demand included access to “any email addresses, user logs, and photos collected by the website.” DreamHost, which hosted the Disrupt J20 website, is so far refusing to comply with the government’s search warrant and is working with the civil liberties organization The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) in order to oppose the motion in court.

Despite the glaringly aggressive pressure being mounted against J20 protesters, and how this presents itself as a kind of test run for the current administration in how they’ll react to public opposition, the Washington Post’s editorial board has attempted to frame concern for state repression as an overreaction.

The government isn’t targeting “the peaceful Women’s March on Washington,” they argue, but “[v]iolent protesters [who] committed tens of thousands of dollars in property damage and assaulted police officers.” Their argument becomes more ridiculous as they suggest the government is reacting in the open and “not operating in secret or behind the back of the judiciary,” as a sign that there’s no privacy concerns.

It would be too forgiving to call the apologetic language used by the Washington Post naive. The media outlet’s language is disingenuous and reads like a government press release. There are nearly 200 people who may lose decades of their life to prison. Characterizing this as hysteria is duplicitous at best. Giving the government the benefit of doubt undermines the ability of citizens to dissent.

The public cannot afford to forgive government, as it often did with President Barack Obama’s administration, and the press has a duty to take a side in matters of justice. As the Trump administration re-militarizes security forces and inspires violent right-wing fascist elements to mobilize openly, it is necessary now more than ever to deny the government a moment of comfort in our newspapers.

August 29th - The Police threw the book at Trump Protesters in DC but sat and watched White Supremacists Terrorize Charlottesville

by Sandra Fulton (*Huffington Post*)

Last week, the Department of Justice altered a sweeping warrant, which sought to collect personal information on every visitor to an anti-Trump website that organized protests on Inauguration Day. The warrant against DisruptJ20.org was broadly criticized as a violation of our First and Fourth Amendment rights. While the DOJ’s decision to marginally narrow the scope of the order was welcomed by many civil liberties advocates, the request remains alarming.

The demand seems to be in line with a broader trend within the Trump Administration—a harsh crackdown against any group that disagrees with President Trump. For his part, Trump has categorized these protesters as the “Alt-Left,” a term that doesn’t seem to apply to any easily-defined entity beyond the paranoid

imaginings of Trump and his allies. But that doesn't seem to matter. The administration and law enforcement are using a range of tactics — from electronic surveillance to a growing number of anti-protest laws — to criminalize anyone that organizes in the streets to protest the president and his policies.

But how are law enforcement and the administration responding to the very real threats coming from white supremacists like those who marched earlier this month on Charlottesville?

Washington, DC

While the organizers of DisruptJ20 are celebrating this small court victory, they are laser focused on defending the nearly 200 protesters facing very severe sentences as a result of charges brought by local police after an Inauguration-Day march.

That morning, the streets of Washington were flooded with people protesting Trump. The media largely ignored the permitted marches and focused instead on a small group of protesters who had organized a “black bloc” to protest the election of a white supremacist as president.

About a half hour into the march local law enforcement began blocking off streets and surrounding the group. National Lawyers Guild lawyer Ria Thompson-Washington described the move by law enforcement as a dark turn away from restraint, she reported, “The police here always give three warnings to protesters before they give any action. In this case, there was nothing. There was no order of dispersal, no warnings. They just immediately brought out their batons and pepper spray without any warning.”

Washington's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) used batons, pepper spray and “sting ball” grenades to kettle everyone in the vicinity of the march, including passers-by, journalists, legal observers and medics. They arrested more than 200 people and charged them all with felony riot charges—which can result in up to 10 years in prison and heavy fines.

While some members of the group had damaged property and even started small fires, a felony riot charge is an extreme reaction by an administration that has proven itself to be intolerant of dissent. It also sends a chilling warning to others who might take to the streets to confront Trump and his administration's agenda.

Charlottesville

Fast forward six months to Charlottesville. In what was widely expected to be their largest rally in a decade, white supremacists marched through the University of Virginia campus, carrying guns and torches while shouting racist chants. There were beatings of counter protesters. Later one of the white supremacists drove a car into a crowd, resulting in multiple injuries and the death of Heather Heyer. The driver was arrested, but police let the rest go home; there was no kettling or mass arrests as was seen on Inauguration Day. After the rally, Trump infamously criticized violence on “many sides” and desperately tried to assign blame to the “Alt-Left” for, in his view, inciting violence in Charlottesville.

Why the drastically different approach? Do the police believe that breaking a window at Starbucks poses a more serious threat to the public than gun-wielding neo-nazis?

Former FBI Agent Mike German who worked undercover with white nationalists groups argues that inaction by the police has emboldened their movement. Many believe that the light touch by law enforcement amounts to approval of their actions; they feel as though they can escalate the violence at the next rally. German also says that police under-reporting of violent crimes by these far-right protesters feeds the perception that they are less dangerous than their counterparts—a notion that has been consistently disproved by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate crimes across the U.S.

German suggests that like terrorism, counter-terrorism is often politicized. Comparing the aggressive police response during the Inauguration-Day protests to their relative inaction in Charlottesville raises a series of

important questions: Who is a terrorist? Whose speech are police protecting and whose are they trying to silence and even criminalize? While not all individual officers are bigots, are there policing practices that protect white supremacists?

The actions of the MPD on Inauguration Day were problematic at best and unconstitutional at worst. The charges brought that day, without individualized suspicion of wrongdoing, could land people in prison, or strapped with outrageous court fees. Meanwhile, violent hate speech is being protected just 100 miles south of the White House. We need to be vigilant about calling out these contradictions and identifying law enforcement practices and biases that create dangerous double standards.

30 Aug - NC Resists the Grand Jury: Update on Katie Yow

After Katie refused to testify on July 31st, the Assistant US Attorney informed her and her lawyer that the government would be requesting contempt and that she was not released from the subpoena.

MORE:

by NC Resists (*It's Going Down*)

Since that time, she has been waiting on notice from the court about the status of her subpoena and whether a contempt hearing will be held. This afternoon, the AUSA informed Katie's attorney that there are no new updates. She has not received any notice from the court. We believe this means that Katie will not be required to appear before the grand jury again when it convenes next week. However, she has not been released from the subpoena and a contempt hearing could be scheduled in the future. We will continue to provide updates as they happen.

In the meantime, our whole community and Katie will continue to resist this grand jury. Whatever the next steps are and whenever they come, Katie will always refuse to testify.

Our community supports Katie, and we all stand in solidarity with each other. Communities across NC are holding firm and having each other's backs while we deal with not only this grand jury, but all the other state repression people are facing in our area. Keep loving each other well and helping each other build strong networks of support and powerful walls of silence.

August 31st - Why One Anarchist Is Choosing Jail Over Grand Jury Testimony

by Natasha Lennard (*The Nation*)

Katie Yow remembers watching her hands begin to shake after the July 10 phone call. It had been her lawyer with news of a subpoena. Yow had been called to appear in front of a federal grand jury. At the time, neither Yow nor her lawyer knew what the grand jury even related to. But the North Carolina anarchist and social worker knew one thing for certain: She would meet the demand with silence. And with this knowledge unshakable, she knew that—without facing a criminal charge or conviction—she could be going to jail.

“Things are going to be different for a while,” Yow told me she recalled thinking to herself.

It was not until some days later that her lawyer gleaned that the grand jury was purportedly investigating the October 2016 firebombing of the local Republican Party headquarters in Hillsborough, North Carolina. On the side of the building, someone had spray-painted a swastika alongside the phrase “Nazi Republicans leave town or else.” No one was injured, and no suspects have been named. Yow's subpoena does not indicate suspicion that she was in any way involved. The 31-year-old longtime activist insists she knows nothing about the event, but her resistance to testifying is about much more than this: Yow is refusing to testify because she knows what federal grand juries can do.

“I didn't have to think at all about whether or not I would testify,” Yow told me via e-mail, “that part is obvious and what I'm doing is the only thing one can do in this situation.”

On July 31—the date that Yow was called to appear before the grand jury—she stood on the steps of the Greensboro, North Carolina, courthouse in a bright blue dress and addressed nearly 100 gathered supporters. “Whatever happens today or in the future, I will continue to resist this grand-jury subpoena,” she said, before entering the building and informing the convened grand jury that she would not be complying. Following her refusal, the assistant US attorney informed her and her attorney that the government will ask the court to hold her in civil contempt, which is not a crime but could land her in jail for up to a year and a half.

Federal grand juries are some of the blackest boxes in the judicial system. Blocked to press, public, and even attorneys for the subpoenaed, the process is ripe for nefarious state use. For decades federal grand juries have been used to investigate and intimidate activist communities—from the late-19th-century labor movements, to the Puerto Rican Independence Movement and black liberationists of the last century, to environmentalists, anarchists, and indigenous-rights fighters more recently. Grand juries are used by prosecutors and federal agencies to map out political affiliations while sowing paranoia and discord. As the Trump administration and conservative statehouses are proving eager to further criminalize dissent and demonize the far left, bad-faith investigative grand juries are another weapon in the state’s repressive arsenal.

Aside from Liberia, the United States is the only country under common law to continue to use grand juries in order to bring criminal indictments. With the sort of irony reserved for repressive state operations, the original purported purpose of grand juries was as a safeguard for accused citizens against improper government motivations. In a grand jury, a process led by the prosecutor, a group of 16 to 23 civilians determine whether there is sufficient probable cause to bring a criminal indictment against a person or group. During investigative grand juries, like the one Yow faces, the government does not present the grand jurors evidence against a person, but attempts to seek information from witnesses—hence the ease with which the secretive process can mission creep into a fishing expedition. The notion that the grand jury is a protection against the bringing of unfair charges gets lost.

“All those other countries [with common-law legal systems] abolished grand juries because they were such clearly abusive, repressive functions,” Jude Ortiz, a friend of Yow and national grand-jury resistance organizer, told me. “The prosecutor has full control of the proceedings, with no judge to curtail any abuses of power. People who are subpoenaed aren’t allowed to have an attorney in the room with them. For all these reasons, anyone involved in radical-left social movements should be aware of the risks of being subpoenaed to a grand jury.”

Prosecutors’ intentions are kept opaque, and a witness can never be sure whether a line of questioning may lead to the incrimination of other activists or the empowering of the state’s ability to target communities.

The consequences to resistance like Yow’s are serious. Individuals who refuse to cooperate with grand juries can be held in civil contempt by a judge and imprisoned for up to 18 months (the length of the grand jury). It’s the sort of incarceration, like lengthy pretrial detentions, that give lie to the notion that our justice system runs on due process and just punishment.

Facing no criminal charges, Yow cannot, by law, be punitively imprisoned. Grand-jury resisters are jailed for contempt on the explicit grounds of coercion: If they agree to talk, they’re released; or—and here is the key to silent resistance—if it can be evidenced that they will never talk and the coercive grounds for imprisonment are undermined, the jailing is shown to be purely punitive, and a judge can be compelled to order their release.

Silence is constitutionally protected only as the right against self-incrimination. In cases like Yow’s, prosecutors often confer immunity on the witness so that self-incrimination is no risk, and a judge can compel her to testify or be held in contempt.

Such was the case for Jerry Koch, a New York–based anarchist (and my close personal friend) who resisted a grand-jury subpoena in 2013 and was held in federal custody for 241 days before a judge grudgingly agreed with motions illustrating Koch’s immovability. That year, two other grand-jury resisters in the Pacific Northwest were jailed and then released for the same reason: their silence.

Earlier this year, 42-year-old Steve Martinez refused to testify in front of a federal grand jury in North Dakota, which was allegedly investigating an incident during the Standing Rock standoff in which a 21-year-old protester, Sophia Wilansky, was hit in the arm by an explosive. The protester nearly lost her arm. Witnesses and Wilansky’s father insist that she was hit by an exploding concussion grenade launched by police; law enforcement blamed protesters for firing the explosive, but failed to name suspects or produce evidence. The subpoena against Martinez was withdrawn without comment, but he had admitted willingness to face jail time for his non-cooperation.

“The price of grand-jury resistance is high, but as an anarchist, refusing to cooperate with the state was actually an incredibly easy decision, and one I would make again in a heartbeat,” Koch, who is now training to be a criminal-defense lawyer, told me. “Refusing to cooperate when I was subpoenaed in 2013 led to my subsequent incarceration for eight months and seven days, at which point the government finally gave up and cut me loose, being so kind as to dump me in the middle of a blizzard in downtown Manhattan in a pair of prison sweats and nothing else.”

Koch, who flew to North Carolina to show support for Yow, sees in her the same resolve and commitment to resistance: “There is absolutely nothing that the Trumpian bullies, who are seeking to incarcerate her, can do to make her play along with this draconian system of power.”

Yow’s subpoena relating to the firebombing of the GOP headquarters raised swift and broad concerns among anarchist communities and activist lawyers. “I just have a hard time believing that federal investigators are so ignorant of anarchist culture that they truly think that anarchists—a group that is not notably concerned with electoral or party politics—would go after the Republican headquarters in some tiny town in the weeks leading up to an election,” said Moira Meltzer-Cohen, a New York–based attorney who has worked with grand-jury resisters around the county.

Meltzer-Cohen said she believes we’re in a political moment that demands a particular awareness of grand juries and their repressive function. “It’s a time when I think law enforcement is feeling very emboldened and has been given more than tacit approval to use any means necessary to quash resistance, and there is so much resistance to quash,” she noted.

In March, UN human-rights investigators issued a statement noting an “alarming and undemocratic” trend since Trump’s election in the introduction of anti-protest law-enforcement activity and legislation. In Indiana, Republicans proposed legislation to allow police to use “any means necessary” to remove protesters from a roadway; in Virginia, lawmakers were considering a bill that would make “unlawful assembly” after the police have ordered a crowd to disperse punishable with a year’s jail time; in North Dakota, Republicans introduced legislation to legalize running over protesters if they are blocking roadways (it failed, thankfully, but casts a chilling shadow in the wake of the Charlottesville neo-Nazi attack).

Meanwhile, over 200 protesters caught in a mass arrest on Inauguration Day face felony charges carrying up to 75 years in prison, because, in the context of a black-bloc march, a number of windows were broken. And earlier this month, the Department of Justice ordered website hosting service DreamHost to hand over data relating to the DisruptJ20.org site, which helped organize the Inauguration Day counter-protests. The original warrant was vague and asked for the 1.3 million IP addresses of visitors to the site. The request has since been narrowed, and granted by a judge, but DreamHost’s legal counsel still states that there are “extremely valid concerns when it comes to First and Fourth Amendment issues” regarding the scope of information that the government demanded.

Meanwhile, the president continues to set the rhetorical stage for an intensified crackdown on leftist activists with his “many sides” false equivalencies—a pernicious narrative that can also be blamed on centrist liberals’ auguring the rise of a conjured “alt-left” terror, while citing only low-level property damage and a handful of punched neo-Nazis. As Meltzer-Cohen told me, we now face a “brand of state power [that] is encouraging and escalating violence on the right, and the completely foreseeable responses to that escalation [namely, vigorous counter-protest] are likely to be investigated and criminalized and politicized in a way that the original violence coming from the right is not.”

This threat of judicial and legislative repression is sure to defang any so-called resistance that finds its ultimate expression in no more than a hashtag or a Change.org petition. But resistance like Yow’s sets an example of a political and ethical commitment that does not bend to state coercion. “Politically it’s important to me to keep my case in the perspective of what the state does every day with police and prisons, and being in community around work for abolition helps me stay focused,” said Yow, who works with young people whose lives have been affected by incarceration.

Yow told me that the grand-jury resistance—and the current state of waiting—has been frightening and draining, but also edifying for herself and her community. As she told her supporters on the courthouse steps last month, “Resisting this grand jury is one way I can show you I mean what I say, and that we, as anarchists, mean what we say.”

30 Aug - Statement from Leonard Peltier regarding Murdered Native Women

In loving Honor of one of our own Savannah LaFontaine-Greywind and all of our murdered and missing Native Women as well as an update on Leonard’s triple bypass surgery.

MORE:

I want to speak to you today in regards to some current events that have taken place. The one most noteworthy at this time which is representative of an ongoing problem for our people is the horrific murder of Savannah LaFontaine-Greywind. Savannah, whose baby was ripped from her womb, and then Savannah body wrapped in a plastic bag and thrown into the river.

Death among our people by other than natural situations have, for generations been untimely, unnecessary and tragic. Savannah death is a gruesome example of what happens to so many of our people at the hands of this dominate society. Our native women are ten times more victims of violence than any other group of women. And that is violence from non-Indians, that is a statistical fact. Our women are kidnapped and killed and made to disappear more than any other group. Its as if society has put us in the category of some species that is expendable.

Whether America wants to believe it or not, the Native American people and their philosophy is crucial to survival of America. We have given our lives to protect the mother earth and bring to your attention the destruction that this industrial society perpetrates against the natural ecology of this portion of the planet where we all dwell. If Savannah's terrible, tragic, horrific death was an unusual occurrence, then we could probably grieve as we often do and move on. But her death is representative of common occurrences against our people and especially our young women. We cannot afford, physically, emotionally, mentally or any other way for this type of behavior to continue. I am not a begging man. It is not part of our culture to beg. But I'm begging you white America to rise to the occasion and help stop this continuing residual byproduct of the genocide that has been perpetrated against Native people.

It is a time in history now that all the different religions, faiths and philosophies need to come together and actively, in a loud voice, seek change in America. Based on respect, for one another, the creator of all things, the mother earth and actively take part in bringing about this needed change of direction that America has taken for so long, for too long. I am not just talking about our indigenous people either, I am referring to all people and all colors of people and all social economic levels of people. The web of life in

America is deeply fractured and torn. And I know anyone taking time to read this knows in their heart that my words are true.

So challenge yourself to make a difference. Having said that, I want to encourage you to find it within your heart to donate to this child that was a victim of this mindset that allows this type of tragedy to take place. Savannah's little girl that was ripped from your womb, will need your help. Savannah had picked out a name for her while she was still unborn, her name is Haisley Jo and you can donate to help establish her in a healthy environment by sending your donations to any U.S. Bank in the name of the child, Haisley Jo.

September 3rd - Native American Leader Leonard Peltier Undergoes Triple Bypass Surgery

"My chest was opened and they took arteries from my legs and placed them in the blocked arteries. I had to be given a liter of blood," Peltier wrote.

Leonard Peltier, U.S. political prisoner and Native American leader, is in stable condition after undergoing triple bypass surgery, his defense committee announced Saturday morning.

In a letter published by the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Peltier wrote that he had been "taken to an outside hospital in Leesburg (Florida) for what I was told was a routine heart stress test," due to shortness of breath.

However, medics found "clogged arteries, 3 of them!" An immediate operation was scheduled and Peltier underwent triple bypass surgery.

"My chest was opened and they took arteries from my legs and placed them in the blocked arteries. I had to be given a liter of blood," he said, adding that now he's "back in prison" and getting around in a "wheelchair."

Still suffering from a slight shortness of breath, Peltier nevertheless said he was looking forward to his grandson's visit him next week.

A member of the Anishinabe, Dakota and Lakota Nations, Peltier is a member of the American Indian Movement who was convicted of killing two FBI agents during a shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1975. He has always maintained his innocence.

Evidence used in his conviction has long been scrutinized and found to be falsely corroborated.

An international campaign led by Indigenous activists has brought Nobel Peace Prize winners Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela and Rigoberta Menchu, as well as Pope Francis, Amnesty International and tens of thousands of supporters together to call for clemency for Peltier.

Even U.S. attorney James Reynolds, who was involved in the prosecution of the case in 1977, wrote to former President Barack Obama saying granting clemency to Peltier would be "in the best interests of justice."

"I think it's fair to say that if he doesn't get commuted by President Obama, he'll die in jail. He's a very sick man," Peltier's attorney Martin Garbus told Democracy Now! in January.

That same month, the U.S. Office of the Pardon Attorney announced that Obama denied clemency to the aging Peltier, who has developed several health problems in his 40 years in prison, one of the longest serving political prisoners in the United States.

"We are deeply saddened by the news that President Obama will not let Leonard go home," said Margaret Huang, executive director of Amnesty International USA.

September 5th - Leonard Peltier on his surgery and recovery

Good Day, Everyone, Supporters, Friends and Family

Slept in a little this a.m., my cell had the ac/air going so it wasn't only a little chilled but under the blankets it felt nice and warm and sort of cozy so I just laid there, thinking about life home and just freedom and all. I wish I could spend some time with my Great and grandchildren, even some of my now middle-aged children, who believe they are the victims in this whole life. They even believe they should be given all of the attention. I keep trying to get them to understand you have to earn leadership, read a law book, some legal articles, something that can help you gain more intelligence but I get criticized for it, so I suggest videos about our history, the U.S. history, world history and then you can become a good leader!

Well this triple bypass operation was totally unexpected! I have had these other medical problems for over a couple of years now: Prostate and Hip problems. But this Triple By Pass, Wow! and believe me it wasn't a very pleasant operation at all. I guess it never is when your whole chest has been open.

O.K. so now I'm in the recovery period. I'm now in a Handicapped cell, the largest cell I have been in since I was in prison. I can NO longer touch one wall with one fingertip to the other wall. But this large cell might be over sooner than I thought. I just heard I'm being transferred to another cell block (A) which they are going to make into an Elderly Block! BUT now I need to work on getting well as the post-surgery period is the most serious healing period, as you all know.

Paulette and ILPDC will relocate the ILPDC closer to me and since no one even knew I was in the hospital until after I got out and was back in my assigned cell, I think it will be a good idea in many areas not only protection for me but to rebuild the ILPDC. And friends we will need some financial help to do this work. I don't have any personal funds, so I have to depend on you, the grassroots activists, for help. Every little bit adds up so donations are needed, unless you can't afford it (of course:) and don't need to be large just many.

Framed Prints and original art work in your homes would be great talking subjects Just an idea, but purchase them from Kari Ann, the only ILPDC Art Director!

O.K. I will try to keep you as updated as much as possible. Thanks to all of you brothers and Sisters, for all you help and concern over all of these years. I do Love you all. In the Spirit of Crazy Horse.

31 Aug - Update on Imprisoned J20 comrade Dane Powell

Dane Powell was recently transferred from the DC Jail to a federal facility, which is luckily much closer to his family.

MORE:

His transfer is finally complete. We and his loved-ones have been in regular (but somewhat sporadic contact) throughout the transfer process. Now that his transfer is final, all of us can be back in touch with him!

Dane continues to amaze us all with his capacity to take on this challenge, and to rise to it, at every turn. Please know that Dane is really looking forward to hearing from everyone!

Some of the rules and regulations in federal prison are different from DC Jail and others are the same. Please carefully review all of this updated info. Thank you!

Dane Powell #82015-007

FCI Coleman – Low

Post Office Box 1031

Coleman, Florida 33521

Jail Mail Regulations

Hardcover books may be sent from publishers only

Paperback books may be sent by friends & family (at most 2-3 at a time)

Magazine subscriptions are okay

Photos: 25 photos or less may be sent in personal mail, so long as the content is permissible.

Return Address is required

Greeting cards are okay with no music or noise maker built in.

Some drawings are allowed on envelopes, so long as it is permissible content and doesn't obstruct address information

It is important to remember that ALL MAIL will be opened and read by BOP staff. Please draft your jail mail accordingly!

Commissary

Dane has a new commissary account. DCLP will be feeding that Commissary account from Dane's Generosity Fund, at Dane's instruction and in accordance with his wishes.

Please donate what you can (if you can) there OR make a selection from the Amazon Wishlist, which has been updated with the latest transfer details, as to mailing address.

Generosity Link:

generosity.com/emergencies-fundraising/support-our-friend-dane-powell

Amazon Wishlist Link

amazon.com/registry/wishlist/1304CQUAW2GEG

Visitation

Visits are also monitored, and require pre-approved authorization. Additionally, there are limits upon how many folks can be listed (beyond primary family). Luckily, because he is back on his home turf, his friends and loved-ones have his visitation covered. Please reach out to us well in advance of any planned travel to Dane's neck of the woods, if you wonder if a visit might be possible.

31 Aug - Charlottesville and the Battles of History

Please read the latest by Mumia Abu-Jamal

MORE:

The events surrounding Charlottesville, Virginia have a resonance far beyond the borders of Old Dominion. Even though they began as a strictly local affair, they quickly assumed a national character, because this strictly local event stems from the nation's history—a history that remains not only contested but bitterly unresolved.

That history, of course is the toxic poison of White Supremacy, and the trigger thereof—African Slavery—the intentional, centuries-long economic, social, communal and psychic exploitation of Africans for the financial and psychological benefits of the White Nation. This toxin has tainted the bloodstream of the Nation, and infected all segments of society, and was integral to the very development of Whiteness as a core identity for millions of people who call themselves "Americans."

As we look at protests rolling throughout the country, the first thing we must recognize is that this isn't about monuments. Nor is it about the Civil War.

It is about the Present. It is about how this country will define itself, how it sees itself, and how it understands its future.

But history, true history is more about today than yesterday, for it is the pathway to tomorrow, and it lives or dies in the minds of the young who learn, or unlearn, how this country came to be, and what role they play in the days to come.

The great Black freedom fighter, Malcolm X repeatedly said, "Of all our studies, history best rewards our research." He knew this not only because he was taught this by his Teacher (Honorable Elijah Muhammed) but because he learned this in the very expression of his life. For, as a state prisoner, a man so hated that he was called "Satan," his learning of a deeper history of Black people literally made him a new man. It gave him confidence, it turned his loathing into loving, it gave him purpose—and perhaps more importantly, perspective.

Perspective. How to look at the world. How to interpret it. How to understand why things are the way they are. That's the real value of History.

It teaches Perspective of Now—not Then.

And that's the reason why monuments, turned green by oxidation and pigeon poop, are seemingly at the center of these controversies.

The Trump presidency signaled a Great Leap – Backwards. It was the expression of a deep, profound fear of the Future, of Change, of Transformation. So, they hold on to Yesterday, invoking Tradition—as if the central Tradition of America wasn't—and isn't—Black Slavery, which launched it into and Economic and World Power.

Charlottesville is thus a turning point—a pivot point upon which the Nation turns back, or moves forward, creating a New History.

This only the people of America will decide.

4 Sept - Real people not scared of freedom support the truth regarding your rights

Please read the latest by Ruchell Cinque Magee.

MORE:

by Ruchell Cinque Magee (*SF BayView*)

The Constitution of the United States belongs to all the American people. What Bill and Hillary Clinton did to pervert constitutional law consists of all out treason against the Constitution in the 1990s.

Trump has remained silent about the Clintons and Republicans taking away constitutional rights. A First Amendment right that belongs to the American peoples of all races, not something for the Clintons and Republicans to take, is ACCESS TO COURT.

My name is Ruchell Cinque Magee. I am held prisoner in the California State Prison at San Luis Obispo, known as CMC.

By facts, law and evidence, I'm innocent. In one event, I was duly acquitted by 12 jurors.

As to my innocence, I am showing federal judges evidence, irrefutable universal facts. However, my evidence begs for a hearing judge's adjudication, which has yet to result in my release from prison.

My due process of law, friend, is also the American people's fundamental due process of law, named the writ of habeas corpus, within which we the people have already won the absolute right to have public protection against illegal government restraints.

It's a constitutional principle all racists want to destroy in favor of slavery. However, we must separate the Clintons' fraud document from our Constitution; otherwise, that filth will continue to draw flies, covering up the practicing of slavery.

President Lincoln's administration warned the public "NEVER ALLOW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE WRIT OF LIBERTY (HABEAS)." It was often referred to as the poor man's writ, because it gave a voice to all peoples against government illegal restrictions. It allowed unlimited filing against theft of liberty.

Now, illegal restraints are ignored upon prisoners bringing such to a judge's attention by habeas corpus.

Those undercover racist Clintons – Bill and Hillary – and their co-conspirators Republicans Newt Gingrich, Sens. Bob Dole and Orrin Hatch took it upon themselves, based on their idea, or illusion, that their new law, the Jim Crow device, should place restrictions on habeas corpus, therefore made the writ of habeas corpus procedural, barring enforcement any time a judge decided the prisoner's claim was frivolous. No more habeas petitions may be filed by that prisoner, unless he or she gets permission from the 9th Circuit judges.

Trump has never been publicly asked, "What authority did the Clintons use to take the American peoples' safeguarded Writ of Liberty?"

Community people united against racism can fix the racists' little red wagon in minutes by demanding Donald Trump see both sides of the constitutional law – rights belonging to the American people that are not the Clintons or Republicans to take. Demand that Trump provide an answer, based on the threat to public safety.

One case of government hate crime frameup exposed will remove that Jim Crow device from the law book, and many peoples in prison, not dead, will be released where false convictions are found.

Jim Crow devices provide judges in favor of slavery the excuse to deny prisoners an opportunity to prove our claims. For instance, 12 jurors in San Francisco County Superior Court in 1973 found me not guilty of kidnap. A racist group who think small about constitutional law declaring all are equal under the law, CONCEALED THE ACQUITTAL, put my person twice in jeopardy for the same thing the jurors acquitted me of.

My writ of habeas corpus started out being denied by corrupted judges who never reviewed the acquittal documents. Those arbitrary denials, being an assault on the jury system and my liberty, are now locked into the Clintons' and Republicans' Jim Crow restrictions.

The Clintons' restrictions on First Amendment speech rights are no more legal than the Klan's and Nazis' violence committed in Charlottesville leading to the death of innocent people.

I, a fighter for freedom, do not respect the Clintons' and Republicans' restrictions on First Amendment speech – access to court – because the habeas corpus never was the racists to take, and I'm determined to prove that fact – including proving the illegality of my imprisonment.

Supporters of the Constitution that belongs to the American people, take the time to view or have reviewed the pending federal writ of habeas corpus entitled Ruchell Cinque Magee vs. J. Gastello, Case No. CV 17-4329 MEJ, before the U.S. District Court, Northern District, at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, challenging the state parole resentencing of my person in the case I was acquitted of, and agents of racism driving over federal constitutional law because they do not respect the law and violating the three-judge order requiring release of elderly prisoners who have served a prison term of 25 years or more and are 60 years old or older.

The Jim Crow device brought the Parole Board gang into the hate crime frameup – meaning the Jim Crow device encourages unstable characters to violate peoples' rights, commit violence and cause serious injury.

According to Trump in the news, he loves all people and feels that they should be treated equally, and the law must be upheld to protect public safety.

Any device or restrictions used to discredit jury acquittal verdicts constitute a serious problem, widely felt by millions of Americans. That problem must be addressed to be corrected. That's another reason President Lincoln's administration explained publicly that NO RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE ALLOWED AGAINST THE WRIT OF LIBERTY (habeas corpus).

In cases of acquittal, no government appeal or restrictions can escape violating the Fifth Amendment prohibition against double jeopardy prosecution. There are many, many U.S. Supreme Court decisions upholding acquittal cases against government corruption.

The above acquittal, same as the First Amendment and habeas corpus, represents the American people of all races and deserves the attention and support of all people not scared of FREEDOM.

People, look, even Donald Trump, who is thought by many to be unstable, will publicly admit that the Clintons' Jim Crow device does not replace the constitutional law of the people and that trash must and will be removed from the law books.

While the above federal habeas stands before the federal court, I have commenced another very important litigation entitled "Conviction Review" before the Los Angeles County District Attorney Unit – showing the 1960s hate crime frameup that got me to prison 54 years locked into corruption – not a third has been told for public awareness.

It's gonna be exposed before I finish moving on, straightening it all out. One federal judge, Vaughn R. Walker, agreed on May 2, 2005, that this case must be allowed to be heard, and that Clinton's law does not apply in this matter. Maybe Trump will support the federal judge's order, since he, Trump, claims he loves all the people, and believes all are equal under the law.

Trump has to say that publicly, because millions of people are awakening to the fact that the Constitution was created by the people who fought for all of us. It's on us to protect what's ours by any means necessary.

7 Sept - Update: Joseph Buddenberg in transit

Joseph is currently in the process of being transferred to another prison. Please hold mail for him until he has a new address. We will have an update as soon as he has arrived at the new prison to let supporters know where he's at and what address to use for writing to him.

7 Sept - Support Political Prisoner Ed Poindexter

Omaha 2 Political Prisoner, Ed Poindexter has been in the hospital or the infirmary at the Nebraska State Penitentiary since December of 2016.

MORE:

He had triple bypass heart surgery followed by foot infections that are still healing. He's doing much better and may be out of the infirmary by the end of summer.

Ed still doesn't have his eyeglasses, does not have a typewriter and his handwriting is shaky – so correspondence is challenging.

Ed recently mailed an application to the Midwest Innocence Project. It may take six months for them to review his application. He is asking for their assistance in taking on his legal appeals of innocence.

Ed is asking for our help to take a moment to write a letter to the MIP to encourage them to act on his behalf.

Please tell them how important Ed's case is. The forensic evidence was a joke by today's standards.

Please send your letter to:
Tricia Bushnell, Director
Midwest Innocence Project
605 West 47th Street Suite 222
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

8 Sept - Black Liberation Prisoner Robert Seth Hayes Still in Danger from Medical Neglect

In an message to the New York City Jericho Movement, made public on September 4th, Robert Seth Hayes, a long-term political prisoner incarcerated for his role in the 1970s black liberation struggle, confirmed that he still has not received the potentially life-saving monitor he needs for his insulin pump.

MORE:

Seth suffers from diabetes, and there has been a campaign running for at least a year to get him the equipment he needs to cope with this condition, after he experienced several diabetic comas around this time last year.

To keep the pressure up on the prison authorities over Seth's health, you can contact them using this web form here.

Call In:

Carl J. Koenigsmann M.D.
Deputy Commissioner/Chief Medical Officer
NYS DOCCS Division of Health Services
Harriman State Campus, Building #2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226-2050

Email: Carl.koenigsmann@doccs.ny.gov
Phone: 518.457.7073
Fax: 518.445.6157

Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci
NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Harriman State Campus, Building 2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226-2050

Email: Anthony.annucci@doccs.ny.gov
Phone: 518.457.8134
Fax: 518.453.8477

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224
Phone: 518.474.8390

Fax: 518.474.1513

Or Email: governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form

Script:

“I am informed that inmate Robert Seth Hayes, #74-A-2280, has still not received the monitor he needs for his insulin pump, months after it became apparent that it was needed. I am extremely concerned that this continuing medical neglect by DOCCS is continuing to put his health at risk, and that this constitutes a clear breach of your duty of care towards Mr. Hayes. Please ensure that he is supplied with the medical equipment he requires at once.”

Send him a card or write him a letter. Seth loves corresponding with people, and it also shows the prison that people are paying attention. To contribute to ongoing efforts supporting Robert Seth Hayes, please donate online at: fundrazr.com/campaigns/810a58

8 Sept - New York: Update on Imprisoned Copwatcher Ramsey Orta who Filmed Murder of Eric Garner

After Ramsey Orta filmed the police killing of Eric Garner, he became a target for harassment and retribution from the NYPD, leading to his eventual conviction on trumped-up drugs and weapons charges.

MORE:

While the cops who killed Eric Garner walk free, Ramsey is still incarcerated. Here's an update from his support network:

Like so many families across the nation, WeCopwatch is tasked with supporting one of our loved ones serving time in the Prison Industrial Complex. As Ramsey comes up on his first year of incarceration, and with three to go, we at WeCopwatch have been reflecting on our strengths and our weaknesses, so that we can continue to be a better support network for the years to come.

Our Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

1. Ramsey has received a lot of sporadic support in the form of donations, letters, and visits.
2. We have been able to visit Ramsey.
3. We have been able to fundraise when Ramsey's commissary is empty, and we send out food packages when we can, we also keep photos coming in to him.
4. And do our best to be a connection point for Ramsey to the outside world.

Weaknesses

1. Beyond a few dedicated people, we have no formal support network in place to support Ramsey.
2. WeCopwatch has no online reach and has difficulty fundraising, or getting information out to large populations of people.
3. When Ramsey was in solitary confinement, we couldn't find a lawyer that would be willing to call or visit Ramsey.

We want/need to do better for Ramsey. But we need more people involved to make this possible. Ramsey is in good spirits, but in his first year in prison, Ramsey has already been put in solitary confinement, he has been cut, and Ramsey has been moved around several times, and is currently at Franklin County Corrections Facility in upstate New York, on the Canadian Border making it hard for him to stay connected to his community.

We as a community can do more to keep Ramsey safe and healthy. We want to plug you in. In any way you can. Consider the following. First and foremost Ramsey needs continuous donations of any form. Keeping his communication open to the outside, and money in his commissary is a must. WeCopwatch helps manage his PayPal donations in the areas mentioned.

How to Support

1. If you can donate one time, or a little every month, feel free to use this PayPal - OfficialRamseyOrta@gmail.com
2. You can send food packages to Ramsey. We have an amazon wishlist that has food items that the jail accepts. Link: <http://a.co/3f4nYJY>
3. You can send Ramsey books. Ramsey loves to read political work, know your rights books, history books, etc. You can send books to:
Ramsey Orta 16-A-4200
Franklin Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 10
Malone, New York 12953-0010
4. We need more people helping post on twitter and content on his facebook.com/SupportRamseyOrta page . If you have online reach and want to be part of Ramsey's online support team, email us at WeCopwatch@protonmail.com

Ramsey is keeping busy though. He's enrolled in classes, reading the books and letters sent to him. And recently Ramsey, Jonathan Burkhardt, and WeCopwatch began working on a Comic Book showcasing Ramsey, his life, Copwatch, and Know Your Rights information. It's sure to be a hit.

10 Sept - Bulk pre-orders of the 2018 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar are now available

The organizers are getting very close to print their 2018 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar and wanted to give you a heads up that they are now accepting pre-orders for bulk copies.

MORE:

Like in years past, you can buy the calendars in quantities of 10 or more at wholesale price and sell them for more, keeping the difference for your organization, campaign or infoshop. Pre-orders will ship within days of getting the calendars from the printer. We encourage you to get your pre-orders in now so you can be the first to have the calendars later this month.

Your group can buy 10 or more copies for the rate of \$10 each and then sell them for \$15, keeping the difference for your organization. Many campaigns, infoshops and projects do this as a way of raising funds and spreading awareness about political prisoners. Order at certaindays.org/?q=order

We think you will love this year's calendar as its one of our best yet. This year's theme is "Awakening Resistance," and features art and writings by Jesus Barraza, Fight Toxic Prisons, Serena Tang, Andrea Ritchie, Roger Peet, Sophia Dawson, Rasmea Support Committee, EE Vera, Herman Bell, Fernando Marti, Alexandra Valiente, Billie Belo, Arlene Gallone Support Committee, Marius Mason, David Gilbert, UB Topia, April Rosenblum, Design Action Collective, Sundiata Acoli, Crimethinc, Annie Banks, Mutope Duguma, Xinachtli, Zola and more.

The proceeds from Certain Days 2018 will be divided among these groups: Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association (Palestine), Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) and other groups in need.

Copies for prisoners remain at \$8 (postage-paid). If you order for a prisoner, be sure to let us know who the copy is for and their full legal name and prisoner number. If you work for a publication and wish to review our calendar, please let us know. Single copies of the calendar will be available for purchase in a few weeks. Any questions can be sent to info@certaindays.org

11 Sept - Political Prisoner Herman Bell Assaulted

Black Panther Party political prisoner Herman Bell was viciously assaulted by guards at Great Meadow Correctional Facility (Comstock) on September 5, 2017.

MORE:

While being “escorted” by a guard back to his housing unit, a guard struck Herman, age 69, in the face causing his glasses to drop to the floor. This same guard then repeatedly punched Herman about the face, head and body. Responding to a commotion, 5-6 other guards arrived and joined in the assault. One of them was able to knee Herman in the chest causing two cracked ribs. Another guard took out a bottle of mace and sprayed it all over Herman’s face, eyes and mouth.

Herman was then taken to the prison infirmary. X-rays have confirmed fractured ribs. Herman’s left eye is damaged from the mace and blows. He has bruises to his body and is suffering headaches, a sign of a possible concussion.

Herman Bell has now been charged with “assault on staff.” Defying common sense, they allege that Herman, for no apparent reason, slapped the guard escorting him. He did this, they claim, in a location out of the view of all inmates but in the presence of other guards. He is now in the Special Housing Unit (box) at Five Points Correctional Facility where he was transferred after the incident.

Herman Bell has not had a disciplinary violation in over 20 years. He was scheduled to begin a three day family visit with his wife a few days after the incident, their first such visit in over 2 ½ years. In addition he is to appear before the parole board, for the 8th time, in February 2018.

Herman has, however, been the target of guard harassment due to his political background. Visitors report that guards processing them and in the visiting room comment that they are visiting a “cop killer” or “terrorist.” Some guards have been seen passing around the book “Badge of the Assassin” written by Herman’s prosecutor.

At this time, we are encouraging everyone to take the time to write to Herman or send him a get-well card, so that the authorities know we are paying attention and are concerned for Herman. Stay tuned for updates as we develop this campaign.

14 Sept - Breaking Down the Prison Industrial Complex: Abolition in the Trump Era

WHAT: Video Premier and Discussion

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, September 14

WHERE: The Verso Loft - 20 Jay Street, Suite 1010 Brooklyn, New York 11201

COST: FREE

MORE:

On Thursday September 14, we invite you to join Critical Resistance for an evening of discussion and radical politics with friends and comrades.

At "Fighting for Liberation in the Trump Era: Abolishing the Prison Industrial Complex in Urgent Times", we will explore how and why abolition is a necessary, inspiring and intersectional way to fight state repression in this current moment, under the federal Trump regime and in the local and regional context.

With special guests:

- Marbre Stahly-Butts of Movement for Black Lives Policy Table and Law for Black Lives
- Mik Kinkead of Sylvia Rivera Law Project

Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

At the event, we will also premiere videos from "Breaking Down the Prison Industrial Complex," the latest project in CR's Profiles in Abolition initiative. The videos in the series explore the current state of the prison industrial complex (PIC) and how people are fighting back to resist and abolish it. As always, we

feature abolition as a strategy to dismantle systems of harm and punishment in favor of systems that increase health, stability, and self-determination. Learn more: criticalresistance.org/videoproject

We are excited to partner with community groups, educators, and organizations to share this resource. Email crnational@criticalresistance.org if you want to sponsor a screening + discussion in your community!

17 Sept - Running Down the Walls

WHAT: 5k Run/Walk/Jog/Bike

WHEN: 2:00-7:00pm, Sunday, September 17th

WHERE: Prospect Park– Lincoln Road/East Lake Drive, east of the Terrace Bridge

COST: \$10 registration (includes food and drinks afterwards)

MORE:

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity events with Running Down the Walls. In the last few years, we've had runs in Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Buffalo (NY), Chico (CA), Denver (CO), Elmore (AL), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Minneapolis (MN) New York (NY), USP Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Tucson (AZ), Seattle (WA), and Toronto, Ontario. This year we hope to expand the amount of runs in prisons and other cities, as well as increase the amount of funds raised for community projects. NYC ABC's goal with this year's run is \$4,000. You can donate online by going to gumroad.com/nycabc

This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 17th at 2:00pm in solidarity and conjunction with runs that will take place in cities and prison yards across the country at the same time.

REGISTER AS, OR SPONSOR, A PARTICIPANT

To raise our goal of \$4,000, we need your support:

Promote – print and distribute this poster <<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/rdtw2017-copy.pdf>> and/or this flyer <<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/rdtw-2017-quarter-sheet.pdf>> to friends and local businesses, your doctor's office, laundromat, food co-op, wealthy benefactor, et cetera.

Run/walk/bike/roll in the 5k – We need participants who can run/walk/bike/roll the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. Download the brochure, complete with registration and sponsor form at https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/2017-participant_sponsor-brochure-back.pdf

Volunteer for the run – We need folks who are willing to staff a registration/literature table, hand out water, bike the route as street medics, and help chalk the route beforehand.

Donate online at gumroad.com/nycabc

Donate to the run/sponsor a participant – If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fundraising effort, please mail donations to:

NYC ABC

Post Office Box 110034

Brooklyn, New York 11211

Your donation of \$10 or more entitles you to the celebratory picnic after the event.

Each year, we split proceeds between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Warchest Program and a local organization. This year's partner group will be the 5 Borough Anti-Repression Committee (5BARC).

The Warchest Program:

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. Its purpose is

to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. Over the last two decades, the ABCF warchest has dispensed over \$85,000 to political prisoners in the United States. Currently, there are ten imprisoned comrades who receive a monthly stipend as part of the program; they are: David Gilbert, Hanif Bey, Herman Bell, Jaan Laaman, Jalil Muntaqim, Joseph Bowen, Malik Smith, Oso Blanco, Robert Seth Hayes, Ruchell Magee, Sundiata Acoli, Tom Manning, and Xinachtli (FKA Alvaro Luna Hernandez)

For more information, visit: abcf.net/warchest-program

5 Borough Anti-Repression Committee (5BARC):

The 5 Borough Anti-Repression Committee (5BARC) is dedicated to defending NYC #DisruptJ20 defendants who were mass arrested on inauguration day in Washington D.C. while protesting against everything Trump stands for. Each defendant now faces at least 8 felony charges which amount to 75 years in prison. 5BARC aims to build a local coalition of organized supporters who will voice their opposition to these absurd charges. #DISMISSJ20

From the Q train, get off at the Prospect Park stop. Walk to Lincoln Road and turn right into the park. We'll be about 700 feet away.

19 Sept - Prison Abolition & the Fight for Justice

WHAT: Film Screening

WHEN: 6:00-8:00pm, Tuesday, September 19th

WHERE: Eastern Parkway Branch- Brooklyn Public Library - 1044 Eastern Paarkway

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Challenging Incarceration, Critical Resistance, and RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) at the Eastern Parkway Library!

What is prison industrial complex abolition? Why is it an important vision and strategy to fight the harms of imprisonment and to bring loved ones home from prisons and jails? Join us for this video screening + movement-building discussion on the fight for decarceration in New York.

23 Sept - Punk Rock Karaoke for NYC Books Through Bars

WHAT: Punk Rock Karaoke

WHEN: 9:00pm-12:00am Saturday, September 23rd

WHERE: Pine Box Rock Shop - 12 Grattan Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206

COST: 10\$ donation at the door | 21+ | Proceeds go to NYC Books through Bars

MORE:

NYC Books through Bars is an all-volunteer-run group that sends free, donated books to incarcerated people in NYC and across the nation. More at booksthroughbarsnyc.org

Punk Rock Karaoke Northeast is a DIY, fundraising event that benefits a different community group each time. We ♥ prisoners and books.

We also feature a custom catalog of over 800 songs from bands like:

Against Me!, Bikini Kill, Black Flag, Bratmobile, Buzzcocks, Choking Victim, The Clash, Circle Jerks, Crass, Cub, Dead Kennedys, Descendents, Devo, Flogging Molly, Fugazi, Gogol Bordello, Gorilla Biscuits, Jawbreaker, Joy Division, Minor Threat, The Misfits, NOFX, Operation Ivy, Pixies, The Pogues, Ramones, Rancid, Screeching Weasel, Sex Pistols, Sleater-Kinney, The Smiths, The Specials, Stiff Little Fingers, Wire, X, X-Ray Spex, and much much more!